

To: Students, faculty, staff and admin

10/21/21

Subject: Safety Alert: Involuntary Drug Exposures Reported
From: Union College Department of Campus Safety
(518) 388-6911

Dear students, faculty and staff,

As of today, the College has been made aware of three reports of the involuntary use of unknown substances that have been reported to have occurred on campus between October 9-17, 2021.

These reports have exhibited similar fact patterns within which students have reported being involuntarily exposed by another Union student to an unknown substance, described as a white powder. Students reported physical impacts of the unknown substance to include blacking out, immobility and fogginess. This unknown substance has been reported to have been consumed in a water pipe/bong.

While direct evidence has not been established in conjunction with these reports, the College has been in communication with community partners including the New York State Police and has become aware that cocaine laced with fentanyl has been recurring within community reports and the College is working to learn more about how this unknown substance is impacting the Capital Region at large.

The College has identified these reports as [aggravated assault](#). "Aggravated" describes when a tool or weapon is used in creating bodily harm to another, including drugs or other substances. It does not inherently mean that individuals have reported battery or sexual violence.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:

1. If consuming alcohol or other substances, know who has been in possession of those substances and what they contain. Do not consume anything if you do not know what it is.
2. Have a plan to get home safely, including calling Campus Safety at 518-388-6911 if you need an escort home.
3. If you observe someone is in need of medical care or attention, call 911 or Campus Safety at 518-388-6911 immediately. Do not let someone who is unwell or appears to be incapacitated left alone. It is important to be a responsible college citizen. Those looking out for the welfare of others are protected by the [Responsible Citizen and medical amnesty policy](#).
4. Report any and all suspicious behaviors and incidents to Campus Safety immediately.
5. For more information on campus crime and safety visit: <https://www.union.edu/campus-safety>

If you think that you or someone you are with has been drugged:

1. Get to a safe place with someone you trust. Don't be afraid to tell a friend you need to leave or that you need help.
2. Report the situation to Campus Safety immediately at 518-388-6911. Even if you don't want to disclose the reason for your request you can request transportation from Campus Safety to the hospital for tests to preserve evidence and identify any drugs currently in your system.
3. If you are concerned about an act of sexual violence in relation to any of the above utilize one of our on or off-campus resources, including the [Title IX Office](#), to learn more about your reporting options and rights.

For more health and safety tips and resources visit: <https://www.union.edu/titleix/learn-more/health-safety>

If you are in need of additional counseling support or resources please make an appointment with a counselor. If you need immediate support after hours, call Campus Safety at 518-388-6911 and ask to be connected to a Union College counselor. <https://www.union.edu/counseling-center/resources>

Crime Alerts are posted in an effort to make the Union College community aware of any situation that poses a potential threat to the safety and well-being of those who live, work, study and visit the campus. By keeping you aware of crimes occurring in your community the Department of Campus Safety hopes to encourage you to become actively involved in crime prevention. Personal safety practices and knowledge are your best defense against crime.

This alert has been approved by Director Christopher Hayen of the Department of Campus Safety and the Vice President of Student Affairs Fran'cee Brown-McClure and is intended to promote safety on campus and comply, in part, with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1990.